**Tips for taking Reading Tests**

* **Use the Text to Pick Your Answer**
  + Develop scavenger-hunt-type lists of things to look for as you read the passages by reading the questions first
  + Underline the parts of the passage that might be asked in the questions
  + Mark the passage in order to make it easier to go back to find or check specific parts - this includes writing key words in the margins and circling or underlining
* **Sometimes It's Helpful to Refer to Your Own Life Experiences**
* **Ask yourself questions to help you with an unfamiliar word or passage**
  + "Have I seen this word before in a book?"
  + "Where have I heard that before?"
  + "What words or events usually happen around this word?"
* **Learn to Read the Question- Sometimes they are not questions that you are normally asked about a book. Be careful of questions that use the word “Not.” Examples may be….**
  + "How was the central problem resolved?"
  + "Which statement is NOT true about the narrator?"
* **Choose the Answer to the Question**
  + Sometimes choosing the answer by finding the first answer choice that matches something in the text gives you the wrong answer.
  + Unfortunately, by not considering what the question is actually asking, you can be tricked into choosing the wrong answer. Don’t get tricked, make sure the answer matches what the question is asking.
* **Risk an Unfamiliar Choice**
  + Sometimes avoiding choosing an answer simply because it contains an unknown word even when they know the other choices are probably wrong can be a risk.
  + Narrow down the answer choices through a process of elimination.
  + Try to figure out a reason to choose one over the other. Thoughtful elimination between the two last possibilities can lead to the correct choice.
* **Check Your Answers**
  + This **does not** mean going back and taking the test over again.
  + One way is to check the problems of which you were unsure.
  + You can keep track of the troublesome questions while you are actually taking the test by jotting down the numbers of the questions on a separate sheet of paper, circling the numbers in the test booklet, etc.
  + It is okay to take a short break (stretching in your seats, bathroom/drink break) before going back and checking the answers. This will give you a chance to clear your mind a little bit.
  + Try to check the answers to the troublesome questions using a new strategy so that you may avoid reusing possibly faulty problem-solving methods.

**Multiple Choice Test Taking Tips**

* Read the question before you look at the answer.
* Come up with the answer in your head before looking at the possible answers, this way the choices given on the test won't throw you off or trick you.
* Eliminate answers you know aren't right.
* Read all the choices before choosing your answer.
* If there is no guessing penalty, always take an educated guess and select an answer.
* Don't keep on changing your answer, usually your first choice is the right one, unless you misread the question.
* In "All of the above" and "None of the above" choices, if you are certain one of the statements is true don't choose "None of the above" or one of the statements are false don't choose "All of the above".
* In a question with an "All of the above" choice, if you see that at least two correct statements, then "All of the above" is probably the answer.
* A positive choice is more likely to be true than a negative one.
* Usually the correct answer is the choice with the most information.